

# If You Think Your Voting Rights Have Been Violated

Any individual who believes their voting rights have been violated may file a complaint with the Indiana Secretary of State. The Secretary of State has established a toll free grievance line that will be staffed on Election Day from 6 AM until 7 PM. The number is:

866-IN1-VOTE (866-461-8683)

**If your complaint cannot be resolved by calling the grievance line you may file a written complaint.** The complaint must be in writing, signed, and notarized. The complaint must state the following:

- 1) the name and mailing address of the individual alleged to be committing the violation described in the complaint (if all you know is the address of the polling place, that will be sufficient.)
- 2) whether the individual filing the complaint has filed a complaint concerning the violation with a county election board, and
- 3) the nature of the injury suffered (or about to be suffered) by the individual filing the complaint.

Mail your complaint to:

INDIANA SECRETARY OF STATE  
302 WEST WASHINGTON STREET  
ROOM E-111  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

**If you are a voter with a disability:**  
IPAS can answer questions regarding your voting rights or assist you with the complaint process. You can call us at:

(317) 722-5555 OR (800) 622-4845  
TTY: (317) 722-5563 OR (800) 838-1131

# Statement of Funding

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These contents are solely the responsibility of the grantee and do not necessarily represent the official views of state or federal government.



You may acquire a copy of the IPAS established priorities by calling the phone number or writing to the address on the back.

# Contact IPAS:

INDIANA PROTECTION  
AND ADVOCACY SERVICES  
4701 N KEYSTONE AVE # 222  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46205

**VOICE:**  
317.722.5555  
800.622.4845

**TTY:**  
317.722.5563  
800.838.1131

**FAX:**  
317.722.5564

**WEB:**  
WWW.IN.GOV/IPAS

# An Equal Opportunity Employer

Indiana Protection and Advocacy Services provides services to all individuals with disabilities within the guidelines set forth by federal legislation regardless of race, religion, color, national origin, age, sex, ancestry or disability.

# PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR VOTING ACCESS (PAVA)

TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE RIGHTS  
OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES,  
THROUGH EMPOWERMENT AND ADVOCACY



## What is IPAS?

IPAS is an independent state agency separate from all other state agencies and programs. IPAS was established in 1977 in response to federal requirements for a program to advocate for the rights of individuals with developmental disabilities. Since then, more programs have been added to serve the advocacy needs of specific groups of individuals with disabilities.

Like the rest of America, Indiana obtains great strengths from the diversity of our people. The advantages of diversity can be seen all around us, through people who share differing abilities, experiences, traditions, and ideas that enrich our lives and our culture. The Indiana Protection and Advocacy Services Commission defends the rights of citizens with different abilities and extend equal opportunity and empowerment to people with disabilities.

In October, 2003, in compliance with the Help America Vote Act, funds were appropriated to IPAS to ensure full participation in the electoral process for individuals with disabilities.



## Your Vote Counts— The Help America Vote Act (HAVA)

In 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Help America Vote Act or HAVA. This legislation is aimed at improving the general election process and sets forth new federal election requirements for state election officials to follow. Some of the new guidelines include:

- Each state must develop a centralized, computerized, and uniform statewide voter registration database to ensure the accuracy of voter registration files.
- Each voting place is required to have one voting machine that is accessible for people with disabilities.
- Each state must provide for provisional ballots to ensure that every voter is able to cast his or her vote if there is a question of eligibility. There must also be a system developed to notify the voter if his or her ballot was or was not counted, and if not, why not.
- Each state must develop a system that allows voters to check for errors on their ballots and make any corrections privately and independently.
- Each polling place must be accessible to people with disabilities.

## Get Help: Bill of Voting Rights

- The Constitution of the United States of America says I have the right to take part in my civic life.
- If I am registered to vote in Indiana, I have the right to vote in this election.
- I have the right to vote by myself or with help. I can select who I want to assist me.
- Even if I have a conservator, I may vote unless a court specifically said I cannot.
- I have the right to vote the way I want.
- I have the right to get help if someone tries to stop me from voting.
- I have the right to be shown how to make my choices on my ballot.
- If I am waiting in line when the poll closes, I must be allowed to vote.

Remember, to vote in Indiana you must present a government-issued photo identification. If you do not have a photo ID, you can get one free of charge from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

For more information on HAVA, please visit the Federal Election Commission's Web site: [www.fec.com](http://www.fec.com)

For more information on Indiana's plan for the implementation of HAVA, please visit the Indiana's Secretary of State's Election Division Web site: [www.sos.in.gov](http://www.sos.in.gov)

## Every Polling Place in Indiana Must Be Accessible to People with Disabilities

The following are some of the things you have the right to expect from your polling place:

- The site should have clearly marked, accessible parking.
- If the main entrance is not accessible, there must be a clearly marked accessible entrance.
- You should be able to enter the site without difficulty.
- The path from the entrance to the voting area should be level and free of obstacles.
- At least one voting machine should be accessible for people with disabilities.
- If you are blind or have low vision, accommodations should be available to allow you to cast your ballot privately.
- If you use a wheelchair or cannot stand for long periods of time, accommodations should be made to allow you to sit while voting.
- If you need assistance to vote, you must be allowed to designate a person to assist you, provided that person is not your employer or union representative.